

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes _____
no ☒

Property Name: Stone Ridge Inventory Number: M: 35-7
Address: 9101 Rockville Pike Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Bethesda Zip Code: 20814 County: Montgomery
USGS Quadrangle(s): Kensington
Property Owner: Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Inc. Tax Account ID Number: 00420830
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): N410 Tax Map Number: HP21
Project: Bethesda BRAC Intersections: MD 185 at Jones Bridge Road a Agency: SHA
Agency Prepared By: EHT Tracerics, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Laura Trieschmann Date Prepared: 07/16/2009
Documentation is presented in: MIHP form.
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: _____ yes Listed: _____ yes
Have visit by MHT Staff _____ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

History of Stone Ridge

Significance Summary

Stone Ridge at 9101 Rockville Pike has been the home of the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart since 1947. At the turn of the twentieth century, the property was purchased by George Hamilton, a prominent Washington, D.C. attorney and dean emeritus of Georgetown University School of Law. Stone Ridge, commencing with 20 acres and subsequently growing to over 100 acres by 1907, served as Hamilton's country estate from 1904 until his death in 1946. In 1947, approx. 36 acres of the property including the main dwelling and several associated outbuildings were purchased by the Society of the Sacred Heart, an international educational order founded in 1800 in France. Outgrowing their existing facilities in the Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C., Sacred Heart was one of the many such organizations that purchased large estates in Montgomery County as the site of their country day schools. Stone Ridge was an ideal location for Sacred Heart because the property included a large 1904 dwelling that enabled the immediate reopening of the Catholic preparatory school for girls and the vast acreage that allowed for the future construction of new educational buildings. The changes made by the school to the property however have diminished its historic

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
MHT Comments:

Jim Tarkenton
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Rekenty
Reviewer, National Register Program

5/27/10
Date

5/27/10
Date

201002342

The school as Hamilton House) has been altered by the application of a brick veneer with mid-twentieth-century Colonial Revival-style detailing. The building was also substantially enlarged by the construction of numerous additions spanning from the mid- to late twentieth century, thus impeding its integrity as the country residence of George Hamilton. Increased enrollment required Sacred Heart to construct numerous educational buildings and athletic facilities in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, which have affected the property's integrity of feeling, setting, and association related to its early context as a country home of Hamilton. Yet, Stone Ridge's status as an early-twentieth-century country estate has been moderately preserved along Rockville Pike because all of the alterations and additions undertaken by the school are relegated to the rear of the 34-acre property. Stone Ridge has served as the site of the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart since 1947; it has functioned as the school for over sixty years while the Hamilton family owned it for just 42 years.

Background History

Stone Ridge, set on a high ridge overlooking Rockville Pike (MD 355) at its intersection with Cedar Lane, is one of the few remaining examples of the country estates that once lined this major thoroughfare. These estates were located along or connected to Rockville Pike, which like many of Montgomery County's earliest roads followed the course of a Native American trail. By the mid-eighteenth century, Rockville-Georgetown Pike (as it was originally known) was a popular route connecting towns in northwestern Maryland to the tobacco port of Georgetown and was instrumental in "opening of western territories and commercial expansion during the early 1780s." (1) Throughout the early nineteenth century, Rockville-Georgetown Pike became two roads that ran parallel - one paved with stone and the other unpaved with remnants of the original toll road. Agricultural roads and narrow lanes from the nearby farms intersected the turnpike and ultimately served as guides for several of the roads existing today. With a new emphasis on transportation during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War, the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was extended to serve as an alternate transportation route to Rockville. The railroad's speed, convenience, and lower freight rates for agricultural products offered stiff competition for the turnpike. By the late nineteenth century, the turnpike was so poorly maintained that it had become one of the worst stretches of highway in the state. In 1898, state law required the county to rebuild the road. (2)

The reconstruction of Rockville Pike, which renewed its status as a major transportation route, opened the area between Georgetown and Rockville for development. Wealthy residents of Washington, D.C. began purchasing vast acres of agricultural land outside the nation's capitol, particularly along Rockville Pike. This trend, resulting in the construction of numerous imposing dwellings and large estates, continued throughout the first quarter of the twentieth century. (3) These large estates included rolling topography, mature wooded areas, and were edged by existing roads that made travel around the Washington metropolitan area easy. The large acreage proved perfect for the construction of expansive dwellings, typically with projecting wings and high-style entry porticos or porte cochères not possible on their town houses that were set on narrow urban lots. Outbuildings on these country estates included carriage houses, gazebos, caretaker's houses, and even tenant's and laborer's houses, barns and sheds that recalled the land's previous use as agricultural and dairy farms. Such country estates in Montgomery County included Winona (now the Woodmont clubhouse), Stone House, Tree Tops, Cedarcroft, Pooks Hill, Wild Acres, Strathmore, and Stone Ridge. (4)

Stone Ridge was the country estate of George E. Hamilton (March 1854-May 1946), a renowned lawyer who lived on New Hampshire Avenue in the Dupont Circle area of northwest Washington, D.C. (5) Hamilton was educated at Georgetown University, where he would later teach (58 years) and serve as dean (27 years) of the law school. He joined the prestigious law firm of Merrick and Morris, which eventually became Hamilton and Hamilton. Previous documentation cites Hamilton's many positions as counsel and finally chairman of the Capital Traction Co., Washington counsel for the B&O Railroad, one of the organizers of the Union Trust Co., and President of the District Bar Association in 1893. He was involved with many social programs: the Board of Education, the Boy Scouts, the Catholic Church, and the Corcoran Gallery. (6) Hamilton's obituary in the New York Times cites he was "one of the leading attorneys in Washington, where he practiced for seventy-two years." His degrees and awards are

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

recounted in the obituary, which states "Georgetown awarded to him an M.A. degree in 1882, an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1889 at the centennial of the university; and the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil and Canon Law in 1922. Only two other persons have received the latter degree from Georgetown "the late Marshall Ferdinand Foch of France and Cardinal Pacelli, now Pope Pius XII." The article continues to tout his teachings, "Dean Hamilton was said to have taken an active role in the instruction of aspiring lawyers over a longer period than any other law dean in the United States during his time. He taught all but four of the more than 1,800 Georgetown Law alumnus living at the time of his retirement [in 1943]." (7)

Deed records note that in 1904, George Hamilton purchased 20 acres of land fronting the eastern side of Rockville Pike, just south of Cedar Lane. The property spanned several seventeenth-century tracts of land, including "Clean Drinking," "Clagetts Purchase," and "Labyrinth." Soon after the purchase, Hamilton and his wife, Louise Merrick Morris, oversaw construction of what is believed to have been a wood-frame dwelling. (8) The primary building on the property was set on the ridge overlooking Rockville Pike and was named Stone Ridge by Hamilton. A tax assessment for 1905 lists the value of the property at \$10,000, which as previous documentation has stated, most likely denoted the construction of the dwelling. (9)

George Hamilton quickly expanded his Stone Ridge estate with the purchase of 83 adjoining acres of land in 1907. The father of seven children, Hamilton needed to expand the main dwelling at Stone Ridge to better meet the needs of his large family. Accordingly, a wing was added to the south side of the main block. Soon thereafter, the property was improved by a tenant house that documents the property's part-time use as a country estate, a cow barn that reflect the property's agricultural roots, and a carriage house, which by this time may have also accommodated the automobile embraced by the upper-class to travel beyond Washington, D.C. By 1918, Hamilton added five more outbuildings (most of which are extant albeit altered) to the property. In the early 1920s, Hamilton had a chapel erected on the rear of the main dwelling. Although an uncommon feature on dwellings from the early twentieth century, the chapel reflected Hamilton's devotion to his Catholic upbringing and that of his children. The resulting alterations to the main house and construction of the various outbuildings substantially increased the value of the property, which was assessed in 1923 at \$40,000. (10)

The city directories for this period list both Hamilton's primary residence on New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. in Washington, D.C., and his "country residence" in Bethesda, Maryland. (11) Yet, as documented by the 1930 census records, Hamilton had moved to live full time at Stone Ridge. Still active as a lawyer, Hamilton's household included his wife and two youngest children, both in their early 20s. (12) The family was joined by four servants, as well as a chauffeur and his wife. Additionally, the census documents the existence of a farmer's house, gardener's house, and laborer's house, all of which were leased by Hamilton.

George E. Hamilton died in 1946 at the age of 92; he was the oldest alumnus of Georgetown University and the oldest member of the District of Columbia Bar Association at the time of his death. (13) His wife, Louise, died a year later. The property, which included over 100 acres, was subdivided by the children. The 34-acre tract at the southeast corner of Rockville Pike and Cedar Lane, which included the main dwelling house and numerous outbuildings, was sold to the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1947. The Society of the Sacred Heart operated a Catholic preparatory school for girls in Washington, D.C. The society was founded in France by Madeleine Sophie Barat in 1800. In 1818, Rose Philippine Duchesne brought the philosophy of Sacred Heart's education to North America, but it was not until 1871 that a school was established in Maryland. That branch of the school, located in St. Mary's County, was forced to close after two years because of overwhelming hardships. In 1923, the Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in Washington, D.C. Their first building, located at 1719 Massachusetts Avenue (no longer extant), was originally a residential building erected in the late nineteenth century. The school's location in the Dupont Circle area of the nation's capitol was typical of many educational facilities, particularly private schools, in the early twentieth century. Contemporaneous schools in this affluent neighborhood included the Fairmount School, the University School, and Visitation School to name just a few. Many of these schools were established in the former homes of prominent residents who had larger dwellings erected elsewhere in the city of Washington or had already moved to reside full time at their country estates in Maryland

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

or Virginia. Following the lead of the previous owners, the schools migrated to the outer reaches of Washington, D.C. seeking larger facilities for their growing student population. With 150 students and 27 instructors in 1947, Sacred Heart purchased Stone Ridge as the site of its new and expanding country day school. George Hamilton's second eldest daughter, also named Louise, "was the treasurer of the eastern province of the Order of the Sacred Heart," and this may have facilitated the sale of the property. (14) The new school opened on September 25, 1947 in the main house at Stone Ridge.

During the tenure of Sacred Heart at Stone Ridge, the property was improved by several new educational and athletic facilities that altered the landscape of the country estate to better suit the needs of the school. This included the construction of a "new wing" added to the main Hamilton House to accommodate classrooms, study halls, a playroom, and dining rooms. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, further additions for the Lower and Upper Schools and the Religious Community were built. Tennis courts replaced blacktops used for roller skating. A gymnasium opened in 1963 and an addition in 1974 provided expanded athletic facilities. (15)

A history provided by the school continues with a discussion of the new resources and alterations to the property in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries:

"With increased enrollment over the years, a new academic building opened in 1996 with classrooms for the Upper School, as well as science, computer and foreign language labs, administrative offices, a media center, library, an assembly room, and lecture hall. At this same time, a new, 7,000 square foot gymnasium opened complementing two existing gymnasiums. As a result, pre-existing athletic facilities with basketball and volleyball courts, music and drama rooms, expanded to include more office space, a weight room, and gymnastics room where a climbing wall was added in 2000. Additional outdoor tennis courts, playing fields, and a swimming pool added in 2001 complete the partially wooded campus. In 2002, the Sophie Center space for Middle School assemblies and performance arts was enhanced with an improved stage and the installation of new seating risers. At the north end of the center, the original windows were replaced with two set of double doors leading to a spacious wood deck with outside access. In 2003, improvements to the existing Book Barn and maintenance buildings were completed. The spring of 2003 also found the outdoor grotto and prayer garden devoted to Mater Admirabilis completed with landscaping and granite benches located on the hill adjacent to the gymnasiums."

"After living in convent quarters on the fifth floor of the school since 1959, the Religious of the Sacred Heart moved into a single family home in May 2004. There are sisters now living in two houses located in the Parkview neighborhood, adjacent to the Stone Ridge campus. The vacated space on the fifth floor houses new classrooms, counseling offices and tutoring rooms, the health facility, and a common area for faculty. In 2005, significant renovations too place on campus: the Sacred Heart Child Care Center opened; a new light-filled Visual Arts Center atelier has enhanced the drawing and painting curriculum; and the swimming pool was enclosed with a retractable roof, creating a state-of-the-art aquatic center complete with locker rooms, a classroom, observation decks, and spectator seating." (16)

Many of the alterations and additions to the property, especially to the main house at Stone Ridge, have been completed under the direction of the Society of the Sacred Heart. This has resulted in a cohesive design plan, although not a formally planned campus design. It is presumed these alterations and the design of the new additions were the work of an architect(s), who is unknown at this time. The additions to the Hamilton House have been relegated to the east rear elevation and north side elevation, thus preserving the building's grandeur as a country estate when viewed from Rockville Pike. The retention of the stone gate post and walls with metal fencing have added to this view and setting. Every attempt seems to have been made to retain the original hilly topography and many of the mature trees. These elements are indicative of the property's early history as the country estate of George Hamilton. New buildings have been added to the eastern side of the property, with parking lots along the south side and in the northwest corner. (17) Today, 653 students attend Stone Ridge. (18)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Assessment of Integrity and Eligibility

The property retains a number of buildings dating from the ownership of George E. Hamilton, including the main dwelling house, carriage house, tenant house, barn, gazebo, and several sheds. These resources collectively reflect the ownership and occupancy of Hamilton and his family. However, during the property's tenure as the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, these buildings have changed uses and undergone alterations. The most significant alterations have occurred on the main dwelling, referred to as the Hamilton House by Sacred Heart. The wood-frame structure, revealed during alterations, was reclad in a stretcher-bond brick veneer that presented a more cohesive architectural design that included elements more commonly associated with the mid-twentieth-century Colonial Revival style rather than a 1904 expression. (19) This alteration in particular, which includes replacement of the original wood window detailing with concrete sills and lintels, affects the main dwelling's integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Large additions were constructed on the rear and side elevations of the building, altering its design as a single-family dwelling. The changes in uses and alterations to all of the buildings erected for Hamilton between 1904 and 1946, and construction of new buildings by and for the school have diminished the property's ability to recount the tenure of Hamilton. As a result, although the view from Rockville Pike has been moderately preserved, the property no longer reflects the period during which George Hamilton and his family resided there and does not retain sufficient integrity to be assessed as an early-twentieth-century country estate.

Stone Ridge has served as the site of the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart since 1947; it has functioned as the school for over sixty years while the Hamilton family owned the property for just 42 years. Under the school's ownership, the property has been improved by a number of large educational buildings and athletic facilities. The first of the several alterations to the main house undertaken by the school includes the construction of the 1947 rear addition, which is not visible from Rockville Pike, and its recladding in brick. The building was further altered by a series of side additions, including the construction of a large wing on the north elevation in 1959 (enlarged in 1996). At least thirteen new buildings and structures, including athletic fields and tennis courts, have been added to the property since 1947. The vast majority (ten of 13) of these resources were constructed in the 1960s and at the turn of the twenty-first century. Although these resources add to the historic context of the school, they are not yet historic (are less than fifty years of age) and cannot be properly evaluated for their contribution to the property's context as a school.

Based on the lack of physical integrity, the property cannot be evaluated as George E. Hamilton's Stone Ridge. Rather, it presents a more cohesive context as Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. However, the context for the school continues to evolve to meet the needs of the twenty-first-century students. The majority of the alterations/additions and new resources constructed by and for the school have not yet reached the fifty year mark and are not considered historic. Therefore, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart cannot be properly evaluated within this context.

For these reasons, it is recommended that Stone Ridge is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an early-twentieth-century country estate or as the country residence of George E. Hamilton because of a loss of integrity and cannot yet be evaluated for its significance as the home of Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

(1) City of Rockville Department of Planning, Rockville Pike Corridor Neighborhood Plan, April 24, 1989, 1.

(2) Ibid, 1.

(3) Andrea Rebeck, Montgomery County In the Early Twentieth Century (Silver Spring, MD: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission/Maryland Historical Trust, 1987), 7.

(4) William Offutt, Old Bethesda: A Social History of the Area through World War Two, (Bethesda, MD: The Innovation Game), 335-336.

(5) Washington City Directory of 1896 and 1918.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

- (6) Donald Leavitt and Candy Reed, "Stone Ridge (M: 35-7)," Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1979), 8:1.
- (7) "G.E. Hamilton Dies; Retired Law Dean," New York Times, 26 May 1946, 32.
- (8) Although now obscured by a brick veneer, the wood-frame structure has been noted by Sacred Heart during alterations and the construction of additions. Because the original structure is now veneered, the original architectural style is not discernible; however the form and symmetry of the fenestration of the main block suggest it was Colonial Revival.
- (9) Leavitt and Reed, 8:1.
- (10) Ibid, 8:1.
- (11) Washington City Directory, 1918.
- (12) Hamilton's youngest son, Frederick McGuire Hamilton, was killed in plane crash shortly before World War II (See "G.E. Hamilton Dies; Retired Law Dean," New York Times, 26 May 1946, 32).
- (13) "G.E. Hamilton Dies; Retired Law Dean," New York Times, 26 May 1946, 32.
- (14) Leavitt and Reed, 8:1.
- (15) Stone Ridge of the Sacred Heart, "About Us," <http://www.stoneridge.org/aboutus/history.htm>.
- (16) Ibid.
- (17) The brick and stone culverts that frame the property at the northwest corner provide drainage for the stream that runs east across Rockville Pike and north across Cedar Lane. Tax parcel maps and a boundary survey prepared for Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart indicate the culverts are not on the property owned by the school.
- (18) Stone Ridge of the Sacred Heart, "About Us," <http://www.stoneridge.org/aboutus/history.htm>.
- (19) The architectural style of the house when constructed has not been determined.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

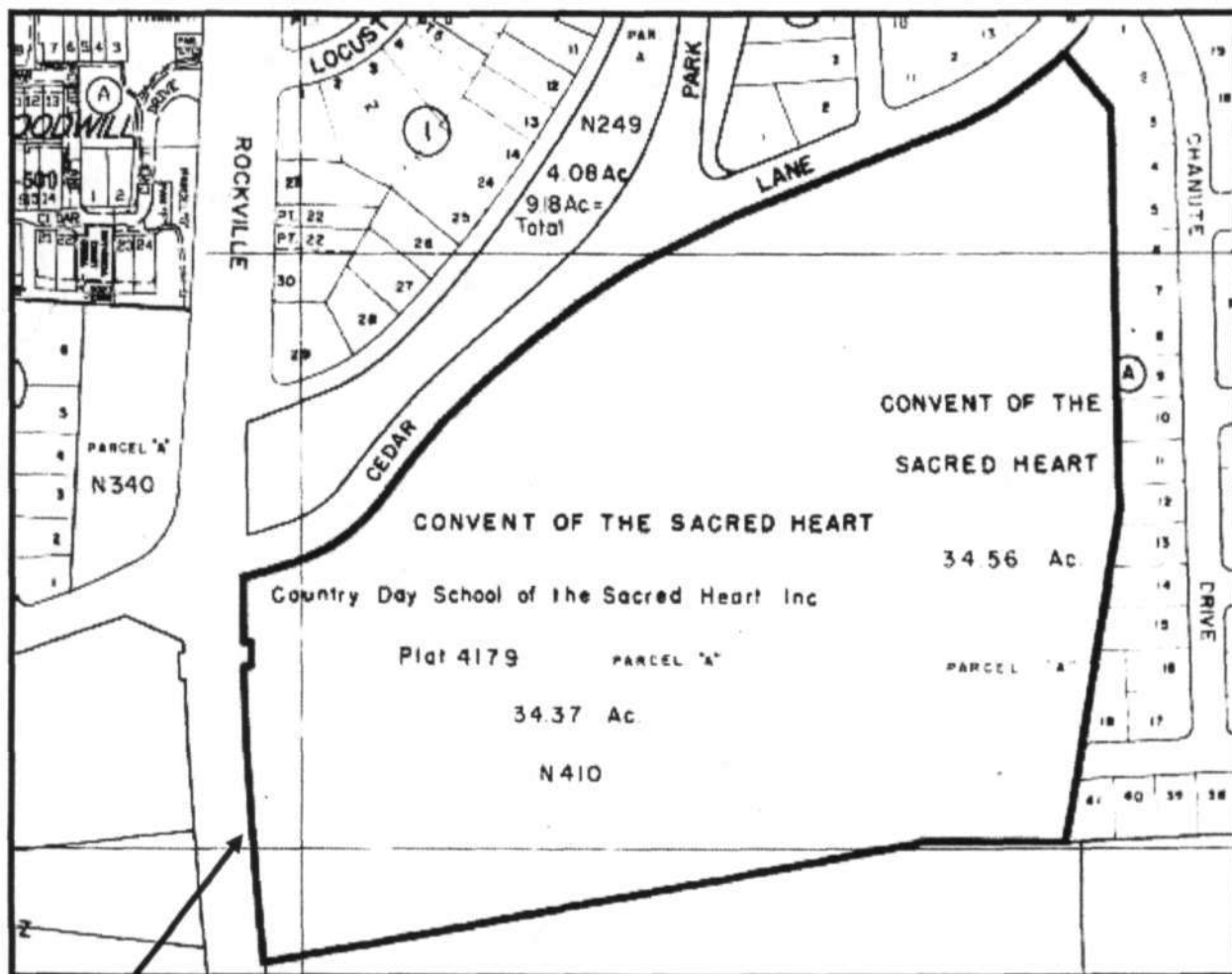
Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

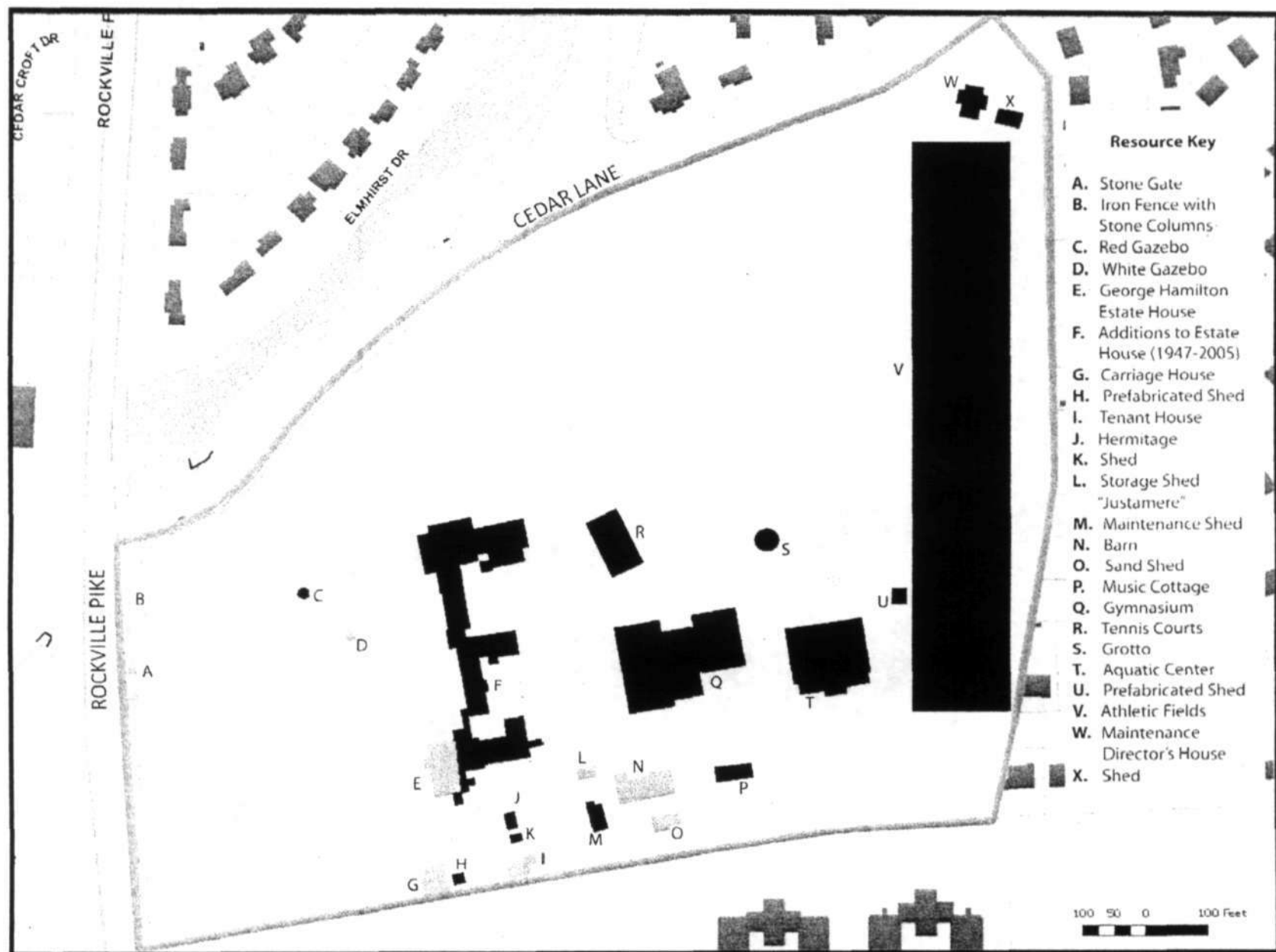
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



Stone Ridge (M: 35-7)
 9101 Rockville Pike
 Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland
 Tax Parcel Map HP21, Parcel N410
 Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2009



Stone Ridge (M: 35-7)

9101 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

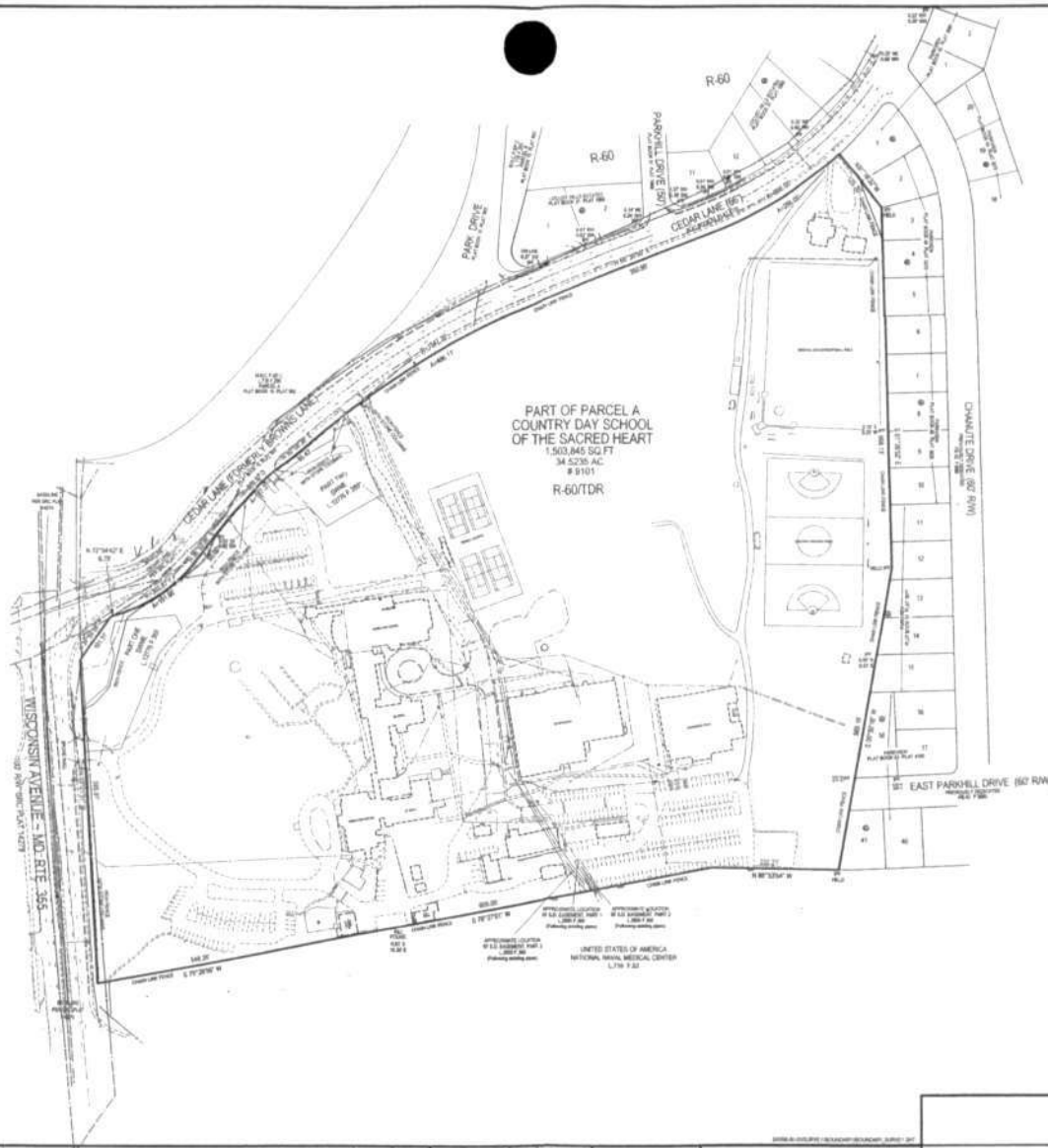
MC Atlas

Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2009

Resources associated with Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Resources associated with Stone Ridge (George Hamilton Estate)





3. THE DATUM FOR THIS SURVEY IS BASED ON MDC TRANSVERSE STATION
8889. CONVERSIONS: 8"=1" N.E. SCALE FACTOR= 8889/10
8890. CONVERSION: 8"=1" N.E. SCALE FACTOR= 8890/10

This form was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and the foregoing statements herein are based upon physical evidence found in the field and legal documents and/or other data provided and compiled by the Veterans' Characteristics of Research for Burial Service developed by the Board of Professional Staff Consultants of the State of Maryland as explained in COMPTON 05 13.06.05


Charles H. Smith
Charles H. Smith
Physical Life Services
561 Ring Rd. S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30316

5-1-07
Date



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART
PLAT BOOK 53 PLAT 4179
BETHESDA (7TH) ELECTION DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
MAY, 2007 SCALE 1"=100'

1" = 100'
 SHEET _____
 OF _____
 PROJECT NO. _____

 **Lowderman**
Sohler Associates, Inc.

ROCKVILLE OFFICE
2 Research Place, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20850
t. 301.548.2750 f. 301.948.9067

Engineering
Planning
Surveying
Environmental Science

Rockville
Landover
Frederick
Waldorf
Lanham
Chesley

www.LSAssociates.com

[illegible]

MISS UTILITY NOTE

BEFORE THE EXACT LOCATION AND EXTENT OF ALL EXISTING UTILITIES AND UTILITY CONDUITS BY MAKING TEST PITS BY HAND WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE START OF EXCAVATION. CONTACT "TODD UTILITY" AT 1-800-232-7772 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE START OF EXCAVATION. IF CLEARANCES ARE LESS THAN SHOWN ON THE PLAN OR TWO FEET SIX INCHES, WHICHEVER IS LESS, CONTACT THE OWNER AND THE UTILITY COMPANY BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH CONSTRUCTION. CLEARANCES LESS THAN NOTED MAY REQUIRE REVISIONS TO THE PLAN.



Stone Ridge (M: 35-7)

9101 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland

Kensington Quad, USGS Topographic Map, 1965, Revised 1979

Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2009





M:35-7

Stone Ridge, 9101 Rockville Pike

Montgomery County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

June 2009

MD SHPO

Facade of Hamilton House, looking northeast

1 of 6



M:35-7

Stone Ridge, 9101 Rockville Pike

Montgomery County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

June 2009

MD SHPO

Large 1996 addition to Hamilton House, looking
South

2 of 6



M135-7

Stone Ridge, 9101 Rockville Pike

Montgomery County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

June 2009

MD SHPO

Aquatic Center, looking southeast

3 of 6



M135-7
Stone Ridge, 9101 Rockville Pike
Montgomery County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

June 2009

MD SHPO

Sand Shed and Barn, looking northwest
4 of 6



M135-7

Stone Ridge, 9101 Rockville Pike

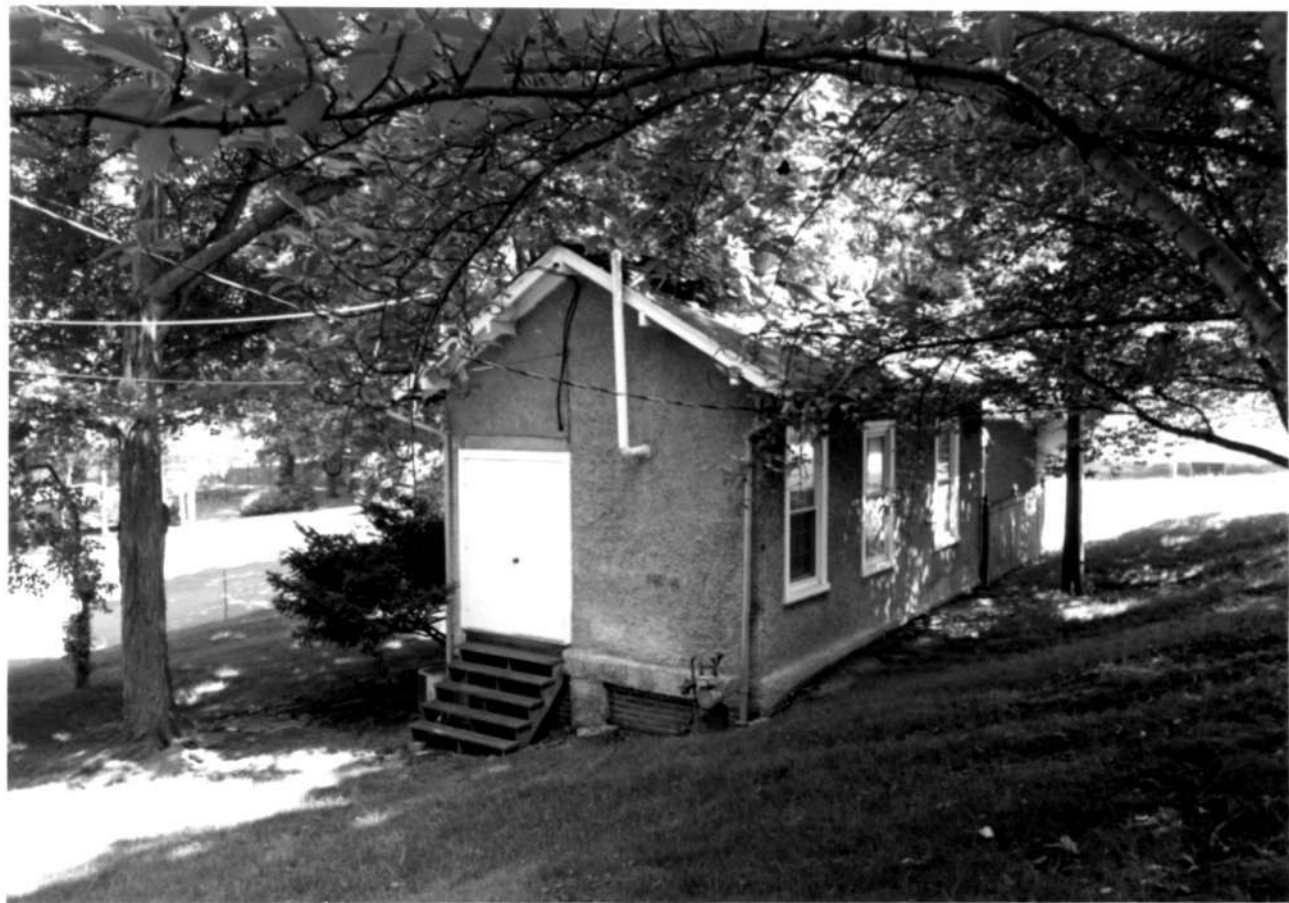
Montgomery County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

June 2009

MD St1P0

Carriage House and Prefabricated Steel, looking
5 of 6 Southwest



M:35-7

Stone Ridge, 9101 Rockville Pike

Montgomery County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

June 2009

MD SHPO

Hermitage and Shed, looking Southeast

6 of 6

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:35-7

(date entered 5-4-83)

1. Name: Stone Ridge
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 35/7 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 21
C-7
4. Address: 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda
5. Classification Summary
- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Category | <u>building</u> | Previous Survey Recording | <u>M-NCPPC</u> |
| Ownership | <u>private</u> | Title and Date: | <u>1976 Inventory of</u> |
| Public Acquisition | <u>N/A</u> | | <u>of Historical Site</u> |
| Status | <u>occupied</u> | | |
| Accessible | <u>yes; restricted</u> | Federal | <u>State</u> <u>x</u> <u>County</u> <u>x</u> <u>Local</u> |
| Present use | <u>educational</u> | | |
6. Date: c. 1904 7. Original Owner: George Hamilton
8. Apparent Condition
- a. good b. altered c. original site
9. Description: This is an example of colonial revival architecture. Today this building is the main building to Stone Ridge Country Day School. To the east (rear) of this house a new modern addition has been erected. This house sits on a ridge facing west; it is two-and-a-half stories, six bays by three bays, and is constructed of common bonded brick. The west porch has a flat balustraded roof supported by four wooden columns. There are six-over-six double-hung windows set into flat arches with keystones. There is a three part window above the west front door. There are five gabled dormer windows on the west elevation. The house has a gable roof with slate shingle covering.
10. Significance: Stone Ridge is a turn of the century Georgian Revival mansion and is one of the few survivors of the grand houses that once lined Rockville Pike. It is associated with George Hamilton, a leading citizen of the Washington metropolitan area.
- In 1904 George Hamilton purchased 20 acres on Rockville Pike, then a dusty country road passing by many large estates. He graduated from Georgetown Law School and later joined the faculty and became dean. He headed the law firm of Hamilton and Hamilton, chaired the Capital Tractor Company, helped organize the Union Trust Company, and was the president of the District Bar Association.
- Hamilton built his brick mansion on a gentle hillside overlooking the Pike, adding to the house and outbuildings three years later. By the early 1920's the main house had been greatly enlarged and five more outbuildings added.
- Hamilton lived in the Georgian Revival mansion until his death in 1946 at the age of 92. His wife died the next year and Stone Ridge was sold with 35 acres to the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. A parochial day school was opened and still operates on the grounds. Several large classroom buildings have been added, but the mansion and most of the outbuildings are still in good condition.
11. Researcher and date researched: Donald Leavitt-9/79 Candy Reed
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation
Approval
15. Acreage: 34.37 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 35/7
Mag1 #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Stone Ridge

AND/OR COMMON

Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9101 Rockville Pike

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Country Day School of the
Sacred Heart Inc.

Telephone #: 657-4322

STREET & NUMBER

9101 Rockville Pike

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1084

Folio #: 258

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

M:35-7

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT
X GOOD
__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an example of colonial revival architecture. Today this building is the main building to Stone Ridge Country Day School. To the east (rear) of this house a new modern addition has been erected.

The house sits on a ridge, facing west, overlooking Rockville Pike. Built on brick foundations and laid up in common bond, this brick house is six bays across and three bays deep, it is two and a half stories high. On the west (front) elevation there is a square balustraded porch with a brick base covered by octagonal and square brick-colored tiles. The porch roof is supported by four wooden columns. There are six over six light double hung windows set into frames with stone sills and flat arch lintels with keystones. Above the west door, at the second story, there is a three part window composition. The central window is surmounted by a wooden fan panel which produces the effect of this window being in the Palladian style. There are five gabled roofed round-headed dormer windows on the west elevation. The central dormer has a broken scroll pediment. At the south end of the west elevation, at the second floor, there is a three-sided bay window support from below by two consoles and having a balustraded roof. Below the bay window at the first floor, there is a recently installed stained glass window. This was done at the time the former ballroom was turned into a chapel.

The house has a gable roof with slate covering and egg and dart molding and dentils at the cornice line. There are two interior chimneys. Entering the house through the west (front) door one comes up a central east-west hallway. At the east end of the original house is a traceried fan light above the door with sidelights which opens into the modern classroom addition. An open well opening two flight staircase ascends from west to east along the north interior wall and then makes a ninety degree turn and continues, ascending north to south, to the second story. The stairway has curving banister and slender turned balusters. From the point where the stairway turns south, the east half of the hallway is barrel vaulted and has white painted wooden coffers and full field paneling. Southwest of the hall is a sitting room and to the southeast is the kitchen services area (the kitchen itself is in the basement); south of these two rooms and running the full east-west width of the house is the chapel, formerly the ballroom. North of the hall is a large living room. There is a large archway which distinguishes the main living room from the small library near its east end. There are built-in bookcases along the three walls. The living room has a coffered ceiling. The brick fireplace against the north exterior wall has a decorative mantle with flanking applied plasters. Above the mantelpiece there is a panel depicting George and Martha Washington and the Custis Children. The fireplace in the sitting room has a marble surround and applied pilasters supporting a simple mantelpiece.

Floors throughout the house are wooden but are presently covered by wall-to-wall carpeting. The walls and ceilings, except where

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

already described are plaster over lath. Doors are all wooden paneled. There are hooded radiators throughout the house.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Hamilton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stone Ridge is a turn of the century Georgian Revival mansion and is one of the few survivors of the grand houses that once lined Rockville Pike. It is associated with George Hamilton, a leading citizen of the Washington metropolitan area.

Early in this century, George Hamilton decided to buy property in the countryside for an estate. In 1904 he purchased 20 acres¹ bordering on the Rockville Pike, at that time a dusty country road passing by many large estates.

Hamilton was the youngest son of John and Mary Hamilton of Prospect Hill, the family estate near LaPlata, Maryland. His earliest years were spent in the gentle life of a southern plantation. Although the Civil War wiped out the family's fortune, Hamilton's parents put their son through the finest schools. He was educated at Georgetown College from preparatory school in 1865 at age 11 through Law school. His fortunes changed at the end of his under-graduate work when he was chosen to make a speech at commencement. The topic is lost to history, but at least one listener was extremely impressed. A Mr. Merrick, head of the prestigious law firm of Merrick and Morris, was so impressed with young Hamilton that he offered to hold open a position in his firm for him until he graduated from law school. Hamilton completed law school and began his career at Merrick and Morris. The fact that he also married the boss's daughter Louise Merrick (20 years his junior) probably did little to dim his success. Years later the law firm became Hamilton and Hamilton.

In 1885 he joined the faculty at Georgetown Law School and remained there for 58 years, the last 27 as dean. However, in that era of self-made men, Hamilton also kept a hand in the world of business. He was counsel and finally chairman of the Capital Traction Co., Washington counsel for the B & O Railroad, one of the organizers of the Union Trust Co., and President of the District Bar Association in 1893. He was involved with many social programs: the Board of Education, the Boy Scouts, the Catholic Church, and the Corcoran Gallery.

The first section of the brick mansion was built in 1904-05 on a gentle hillside overlooking Rockville Pike. Tax assessments for 1905 list the worth of the building at \$10,000, a substantial figure for that day. In 1907 Hamilton purchased 83 acres adjoining his estate² and added more onto the house. Three years later several outbuildings were constructed, including tenant house, a cow barn, and an auto shed. Hamilton called his estate "Stone Ridge".

By 1918 five more outbuildings had been added and in the early 1920s the main house was greatly enlarged, bringing its assessed value up to an astronomical \$40,000 in 1923 dollars.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Assessment Records of Montgomery County, Md.
 George Hamilton Biography File, Washingtoniana Room, Martin Luther King
 Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 34.37 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on the east side of Rt. 355, approx. 1 mile south of the interchange
 with I-495.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald M. Leavitt

Candy Reed - Arch. Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Sept. 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
 by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
 Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
 and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
 ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Attachment Sheet A

Stone Ridge Country Day School
Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD

M: 35/7

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The house is situated on a hilly campus. To the northeast is an octagonal wooden gazebo. Built on brick foundations, the gazebo has eight wooden columns supporting the octagonal roof, with slate coverings. These columns are linked by a railing with square balusters. Benches are built in on the interior along the railing.

He lived in the Georgian Revival mansion until his death in 1946 at the age of 92. His wife died the next year and Stone Ridge was sold with 35 acres to the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. Hamilton's daughter Louise was the treasurer of the eastern province of the Order of the Sacred Heart. A parochial day school was opened and still operates on the grounds. Several large classroom buildings have been added, but the mansion and most of the outbuildings are still in good condition. Today Stone Ridge is no longer a haven for the rich, but it provides a sheltered environment for their children's education.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. 176/279 (2/27/1904).
- 2 Ibid., 196/134 (10/29/1907).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M #35-78
1608544702

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Stone Ridge Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rockville Pike & Cedar Lane

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rockville Pike

Inc.

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #:

Folio #:

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:35-7

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a complex of buildings that now make up the Stone Ridge School and Convent. The older structures are of the early 20th Century vintage, and were built during the Rockville Pike "estate" era. The main house is a huge, Georgian Revival, stone building. Further details not known at present-not visited at time of survey.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:35-7

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Has been part of the Stone Ridge school complex since at least the late 1940's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE _____

M-NCPPC

Spring, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

8787 Georgia Ave.

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Silver Spring

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438